

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of automatically saving communicated multimedia objects to a repository for subsequent use, the method comprising:
~~in response to a sent identifying an incoming or outgoing electronic message intended for a destination; and a received electronic message;~~
identifying an embedded multimedia object embedded within the identified electronic message or an attached multimedia object attached to the identified electronic message;
separating the embedded multimedia object or the attached multimedia object from the electronic message;
delivering the electronic message to the destination with an un-altered, viewable version of the separated multimedia object and automatically saving the un-altered, viewable version of the separated multimedia object to a repository for subsequent use by a user; and
enabling the user to select the multimedia object from the repository for subsequent use.
2. (Original) The method as in claim 1 wherein the repository includes a central repository.
3. (Original) The method as in claim 1 wherein the repository includes a local repository.
4. (Original) The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
determining a type of the multimedia object; and
automatically saving the multimedia object to the repository based on the determination of the type of the multimedia object.

5. (Original) The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
determining a type of the multimedia object; and
automatically not saving the multimedia object to the repository based on the
determination of the type of the multimedia object.
6. (Original) The method as in claim 5 wherein the type of the multimedia
object includes a non-picture image.
7. (Original) The method as in claim 6 wherein the non-picture image includes
an emoticon.
8. (Original) The method as in claim 1 wherein the multimedia object includes
an image.
9. (Original) The method as in claim 8 wherein the image includes a picture.
10. (Original) The method as in claim 1 wherein the multimedia object includes a
music file.
11. (Original) The method as in claim 1 wherein the multimedia object includes a
video file.
12. (Original) The method as in claim 1 wherein enabling the user to select the
multimedia object from the repository for subsequent use includes enabling the user to send the
multimedia object to other users using a graphical user interface.
13. (Original) The method as in claim 1 wherein enabling the user to select the
multimedia object from the repository for subsequent use includes enabling the user to send the
multimedia object to others across multiple applications using a graphical user interface that is
common to the multiple applications.

14. (Original) The method as in claim 13 wherein the multiple applications include an instant messaging application.

15. (Original) The method as in claim 13 wherein the multiple applications include a member directory.

16. (Original) The method as in claim 13 wherein the multiple applications include a web page publishing application.

17. (Original) The method as in claim 1 wherein the automatically saved multimedia object is available for use across multiple applications using a graphical user interface that is common to the multiple applications.

18. (Original) The method as in claim 17 wherein the multiple applications include an instant messaging application.

19. (Original) The method as in claim 17 wherein the multiple applications include a member directory.

20. (Original) The method as in claim 17 wherein the multiple applications include a web page publishing application.

21. (Currently amended) The method as in claim 1 wherein the sent incoming or outgoing electronic message and the ~~received electronic message~~ includes electronic mail.

22. (Original) The method as in claim 1 wherein enabling the user to select the multimedia object from the repository for subsequent use includes enabling the user to select and use the multimedia object in multiple applications without having to upload the multimedia object to the repository.

23. (Original) The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
prior to automatically saving the multimedia object, determining whether the multimedia object is stored in the repository; and
automatically saving the multimedia object in the repository if the multimedia object is not stored in the repository based on the determination.

24. (Original) The method as in claim 1 further comprising:
prior to automatically saving the multimedia object, determining whether the multimedia object is stored in the repository; and
automatically not saving the multimedia object in the repository if the multimedia object is stored in the repository based on the determination.

25. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a machine result in at least the following:

~~in response to a sent~~ identifying an incoming or outgoing electronic message intended for a destination, and a received electronic message,

identifying an embedded multimedia object embedded within the identified electronic message or an attached multimedia object attached to the identified electronic message;

separating the embedded multimedia object or the attached multimedia object from the electronic message;

delivering the electronic message to the destination with an un-altered, viewable version of the separated multimedia object and automatically saving the un-altered, viewable version of the separated multimedia object to a repository for subsequent use by a user; and

enabling the user to select the multimedia object from the repository for subsequent use.

26. (Currently amended) A system for automatically saving communicated multimedia objects to a repository for subsequent use comprising:

~~in response to a sent means for identifying an incoming or outgoing electronic message intended for a destination; and a received electronic message;~~

means for identifying an embedded multimedia object embedded within the identified electronic message or an attached multimedia object attached to the identified electronic message;

means for separating the embedded multimedia object or the attached multimedia object from the electronic message;

means for delivering the electronic message to the destination with an un-altered, viewable version of the separated multimedia object and automatically saving the un-altered, viewable version of the separated multimedia object to a repository for subsequent use by a user; and

means for enabling the user to select the multimedia object from the repository for subsequent use.